The 2008 National Electrical Code® will take effect in Maine on September 1, 2008. Following is a summary of the Maine amendments to the 2008 NEC®:

The specific language of these amendments is posted on the Board's website under the heading Electricians' Examining Board Laws & Rules.

210.5(C) Identification for Branch Circuits – Ungrounded Conductors

The method used for conductor identification shall be permanently posted at each branch-circuit panelboard or similar branch-circuit distribution center. Documentation in a manner that is readily available shall not be permitted as the identification means.

210.8(A)(5), Exception to (5) Ground-Fault Circuit-Interrupter Protection for Personnel – Dwelling Units – Unfinished basements

This amendment permits a receptacle for a sump pump to be installed without GFCI protection under these specified conditions: A single receptacle connected to an individual branch circuit supplying a sump pump shall not be required to have ground-fault circuit-interrupter protection, provided that a GFCI-protected receptacle is located within 900 mm (3 ft) of the non – GFCI-protected receptacle.

215.12(C) Identification for Feeders – Ungrounded Conductors

This amendment is identical to the amendment to 210.5(C), except applied to feeders.

334.10(3) Nonmetallic-Sheathed Cable – Uses Permitted – Other structures permitted to be of Types III, IV, and V construction

Cables are permitted to be run concealed or exposed. For concealed cables, a thermal barrier that has at least a 15-minute finish rating shall not be required. This is the same as Maine's amendment to the 2005 NEC®.

334.12(A)(2) Nonmetallic-Sheathed Cable – Uses Not Permitted

This section is not adopted in Maine. Types NM, NMC, and NMS cables are in fact permitted to be installed exposed in dropped or suspended ceilings in dwelling units and in other occupancy types including commercial occupancies. This is the same as Maine's amendment to the 2005 NEC®.

338.10(B)(4)(a) Service-Entrance Cable: Types SE – Installation Methods for Branch Circuits and Feeders – Interior Installations

For Type SE service-entrance cable used for interior wiring, the ampacity shall not be required to be in accordance with the 60°C (140°F) conductor temperature rating as required in 334.80. This amendment prevents an unnecessary reduction in conductor ampacity, where conductors are neither bundled nor in contact with thermal insulation.

338.12(B)(1) and (2) Service-Entrance Cable: Type USE – Uses Not Permitted

Type USE (URD) cable is not permitted for interior wiring of branch circuits and feeders originating and terminating within the same building. However, Type USE cable is

permitted for aboveground installations where USE cable emerges from the ground and is terminated in an enclosure at a location acceptable to the Authority Having Jurisdiction, either inside or outside, and the cable is protected in accordance with 300.5(D). This amendment will continue to allow the generally accepted practice of installing continuous runs of USE cable without splicing, terminating in the first enclosure either outside or inside of a building, when the cable in enclosed in a suitable raceway. This also applies to the indoor portion of an underground run of USE cable that originates at an indoor panelboard near an outside wall of a structure.

342.30 Intermediate Metal conduit: Type IMC – Securing and Supporting
344.30 Rigid Metal Conduit: Type RMC – Securing and Supporting
352.30 Rigid Polyvinyl Chloride Conduit: Type PVC – Securing and Supporting
355.30 Reinforced Thermosetting Resin Conduit: Type RTRC – Securing and Supporting
358.30 Electrical Metallic Tubing: Type EMT – Securing and Supporting

These raceways shall be secured and supported in accordance with subsections (A) and (B) to .30 of their respective articles. New subsection (C) is not adopted. This amendment will continue to allow raceways up to 3' in length to be unsupported between enclosures and secured by the enclosures, and shall be deemed in compliance with 300.11(A).

702.5(B)(2) Capacity and Rating – Automatic Transfer Equipment

For optional standby systems that supply single-family dwellings, the standby source shall not be required to be capable of supplying the full load that is transferred by the automatic transfer equipment.

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AFCIs

The proposal to amend the 2008 NEC® AFCI requirements did not pass. As a result, Section 210.12(B) becomes effective on September 1, 2008 as written in the 2008 NEC®. AFCI protection is required for all 120-volt, single phase, 15- and 20-ampere branch circuits in dwelling units, except those circuits supplying outlets in bathrooms, kitchens, garages, unfinished basements, and outdoors. Smoke detectors are not exempt from AFCI protection.

Bonding metal well casings

The proposal to mandate the bonding of metal well casings to the grounding electrode system did not pass. Metal well casings shall be bonded in accordance with Sections 250.50 and 250.52 of the 2008 NEC®.

Tamper-resistant receptacles

There was no proposal presented to amend the requirements for installation of tamper-resistant receptacles. Section 406.11 of the 2008 NEC® requires that all 125-volt, 15- and 20-ampere receptacles installed in areas of dwelling units specified in Section 210.52 be listed tamper-resistant receptacles. The only areas of dwellings not specified in 210.52 are closets and crawl spaces.

Prepared on July 21, 2008 by

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